

# PhilharmoniaBaroqueOrchestra

Nicholas McGegan, Music Director

## PRESS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **PBO performs at the International Festival of Chamber Orchestras**

ST. PAUL, MN – This January, San Francisco’s Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra [PBO] and Music Director Nicholas McGegan travel to St. Paul, Minnesota, to participate in the International Festival of Chamber Orchestras, a once in a lifetime gathering of some of the world’s most prominent chamber orchestras.

PBO performs the final two of twenty concerts with McGegan conducting and frequent collaborator Thomas Cooley, tenor, singing. On January 29, PBO splits the program with St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, the host of the festival. On January 30, the finale concert features PBO, playing the masterworks of two of the orchestra’s flagship composers – Handel and Rameau.

Larry Fuchsberg of the *Star Tribune* writes, “As the centerpiece of its [50<sup>th</sup>] anniversary observances, the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra (SPCO) has organized a four-week, 20-concert International Festival of Chamber Orchestras and invited four prominent European and North American ensembles – bands that might be considered rivals – to take part. The focus, atypically, is on the medium itself; the SPCO’s website promises ‘an in-depth look at what it means to be a chamber orchestra in the 21st century.’ A different visiting orchestra is in residence during each week of the festival... The fourth of the visitors is the San Francisco Bay Area-based Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, led by the irrepressible Nicholas McGegan, an SPCO favorite for the past two decades.”

The Chamber Orchestra of Europe, London Sinfonietta, and the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment also play the festival.

For more information, visit [www.thespco.org/festival](http://www.thespco.org/festival).

To read the Star Tribune article, click

<http://www.startribune.com/entertainment/music/37283514.html?page=1&c=y>.

**ABOUT:** San Francisco’s Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra has been dedicated to historically-informed performance of Baroque, Classical and early-Romantic music on original instruments since its inception in 1981. Under Music Director Nicholas McGegan, PBO was named Musical America’s 2004 Ensemble of the Year, and,

according to Los Angeles Times critic Alan Rich, is “an ensemble for early music as fine as any in the world today.” The Orchestra performs an annual subscription season in four cities in the San Francisco Bay Area, and is regularly heard on tour in the United States and internationally. The Orchestra has its own professional chorus, the Philharmonia Chorale, and also welcomes eminent guest conductors to its podium. Among the most-recorded period-instrument orchestras in the United States and Europe, PBO has made twenty-four highly praised recordings for Harmonia Mundi, Reference Recordings and BMG, and has also released a number of self-produced compact discs and digital recordings.

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